

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND CONSERVATION**  
**Forestry Division**



STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

**STATE OF MONTANA**

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Governor Bullock's Forest in Focus Initiative is a multi-dimensional strategy to accelerate the pace, scale and quality of forest restoration in the state of Montana. A key focus of this initiative is working in partnership with the USDA Forest Service (USFS) to ensure implementation of forest restoration projects on national forest system lands. Further information about the Forests in Focus Initiative can be found at [www.dnrc.mt.gov](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov).

Consistent with authority granted in 76-13-150 MCA, Governor Bullock has directed the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to invest up to one million dollars in USFS forest restoration, fuel reduction, and forest health projects in Montana. Project proposals submitted must meet the intent of this Initiative and illustrate that the pace and outcomes of the proposed project will benefit from state funding. Priority criteria to receive state funds, in no particular order, include projects that:

- Are in the designated Priority Landscapes under the 2014 Farm Bill;
- Are developed collaboratively with interested stakeholders;
- Provide restoration of vegetation (including fuels reduction), watersheds and wildlife habitat;
- Produce forest products;
- Enhance recreational opportunities, and
- Complement management activities on private, state, county, city or tribal lands, and that illustrate cross boundary partnerships and investments.

We invite comments on the proposed state action of issuing up to one million dollars of state funds to the USFS for projects that meet some or all of the above criteria. For all projects submitted to DNRC, the USFS will conduct project specific analysis using federal National Environmental Policy Act procedures.

All comments submitted to DNRC which pertain to this proposed action will be considered and addressed in the final Montana Environmental Policy Act environmental review document. DNRC invites comments and suggestions concerning this proposal from all interested parties. Please respond by May 18th, 2016 to:

**Department of Natural Resources and Conservation**  
**Attn: Maureen Bookwalter**

**2705 Spurgin Rd., Missoula, MT 59804 Or Email: [mbookwalter@mt.gov](mailto:mbookwalter@mt.gov) Include "Forest in Focus Initiative" in your subject line.**

